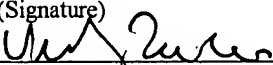


INTERFERENCE INITIAL MEMORANDUM

Count # _____

To the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences:

An interference is proposed involving the following 2 parties

PARTY Conoco Inc.	APPLICATION NO. 09/805,422	FILING DATE 13 March 2001	PATENT NO., IF ANY 6,473,696	ISSUE DATE, IF ANY 29 October 0200
If the involved case is a patent, have its maintenance fees been paid? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not due yet				
Proposed priority benefit (list all intervening applications necessary for continuity):				
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	PATENT NO., IF ANY	ISSUE DATE, IF ANY
The claim(s) of this party corresponding to this count:				
PATENTED OR PATENTABLE PENDING CLAIMS 1 and 9			UNPATENTABLE PENDING CLAIMS	
The claim(s) of this party NOT corresponding to this count:				
PATENTED OR PATENTABLE PENDING CLAIMS			UNPATENTABLE PENDING CLAIMS	
PARTY ExxonMobile Upstream	APPLICATION NO. 10/666,208	FILING DATE 18 September 2003	PATENT NO., IF ANY	ISSUE DATE, IF ANY
If the involved case is a patent, have its maintenance fees been paid? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not due yet				
Proposed priority benefit (list all intervening applications necessary for continuity):				
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	PATENT NO., IF ANY	ISSUE DATE, IF ANY
US	09/973,529	09 October 2001		
US	09/686,735	10 October 2000		
The claim(s) of this party corresponding to this count:				
PATENTED OR PATENTABLE PENDING CLAIMS 23-26			UNPATENTABLE PENDING CLAIMS	
The claim(s) of this party NOT corresponding to this count:				
PATENTED OR PATENTABLE PENDING CLAIMS			UNPATENTABLE PENDING CLAIMS	
<i>(Check off each step, if applicable)</i> INSTRUCTIONS				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Obtain all files listed above. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Confirm that the proposed involved claims are still active and all corrections and entered amendments have been considered. The patents must not be expired for, among other things, failure to pay a maintenance fee (Check PALM screen 2970). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. If one of the involved files is a published application or a patent, check for compliance with 35 U.S.C. 135(b). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Obtain a certified copy of any foreign benefit documents where necessary (37 CFR 1.55(a)). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Discuss the proposed interference with an Interference Practice Specialist in your Technology Center.				
DATE 27 September 2004	PRIMARY EXAMINER (Signature) 		ART UNIT 2863	TELEPHONE NO. 571-272-2281
DATE	INTERFERENCE PRACTICE SPECIALIST or TECHNOLOGY CENTER DIRECTOR (signature)			TELEPHONE NO.